

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Gatling called the meeting to order at 7: 01p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (Late Arrival 7:10p.m.), Councilmember Darrell Hardy (Excused), Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., (Late Arrival 7:02p.m.) Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Samuel Prue, Chief of Police (Late Arrival 7:20p.m.) and Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilman Yeargin

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**1.1.5. Reading/Approval of Closed Session, Public Session, Regular Work Session and Special Session Meeting Minutes:**

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the Closed Session minutes for Monday, March 7, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Regular Work Session minutes for Monday, March 7, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the Public Session minutes for Monday, March 14, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Yeargin to approve the Special Session minutes for Tuesday, March 15, 2011. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## **2. PRESENTATIONS:**

### **2.1. None**

## **3. LEGISLATION**

- None

## **4. REPORTS**

### **4.1. Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Grant stated that his report will be brief tonight.
- Mayor Grant mentioned the Mayors Medal of Service Award (MMSA) scheduled for May 16, 2011. He mentioned the request for the \$800.00 to be approved by the Council.
- This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> Year of the Seat Pleasant. He stated that awards will be presented to Amanda Feggans, Charles Ruffin, Gloria Sistrunk and James
- He stated that every request is to be put in writing. He has requested \$2,500 for the Ethics Board in the Regular Work Session.
- The summit this year will be based on leadership and inclusive with residents. They are preparing for two hundred residents (200).
- The bond bill left the committee with a favorable report. They will find out the status of each.
- They did not put soft cost funds for the Public Works facility budget. They would like the bond bill dollars to be used for the structure. If the bond bill is a good amount the city will not need to bare the expense.
- The tax credit bill HB1114 and SB 1146 for tax credit for collaboration did not pass this year.
- He has requested support on HB1188 and SB982 and it has reported favorably.
- We need to follow-up with the Rushern Baker, County Executive on after our breakfast meeting held a few months ago.
- He needs the support from the city to complete the veteran marker
- He quoted a poem from WB Dubois.



#### **4.2. Council President Report:**

- Council President Gatling stated that her report is on the table. If anyone has any questions, please see her after the Public Session.

#### **4.3. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department-**

- Marcus Jones, President of Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.
- He reported that the total number of volunteer hours for the month of March is 1,718.
- The calls for the month of March is 540, and 316 were within city limits
- Fund Raiser at Baskin & Robbins on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 5:00p.m. The cones will be 31cents and a contribution will be made to Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.
- Fire Prevention Day upcoming on a Saturday in June
- The Fire Department had a Community Outreach Day on Foote Street to pass out smoke detectors, as this area had the most fires in the last year.

#### **4.4. City Administrator Report-**

- Mr. Ashton stated that his report will be brief on the Senior Green Phase II
- Phase II of the Senior Green program deadline was April 1, 2011. We have received fifteen applications and four was eliminated. Five are recipients of phase I. We have developed guidelines, and a selection committee, which consists of Ms. Talber, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Andrews, Veronica Owens and himself
- Refuse, we have placed out an RFP for refuse service. The cut-off date was March 31, 2011 and we receive four bidders. We have a committee that consists of Mr. Thompson, Mr. Oliver and himself. They have a bid criteria and the information will be forwarded to the Council the last week of April.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he has provided the City Council with an update on Metro Business.

#### **4.5. Code Enforcement Officer**

- Ms. Andrews was absent from the Public Session on Monday, April 11, 2011. The Code Enforcement Officer report was submitted in writing.

#### **4.6. Finance Department**

- Mr. Ashton reported that his Finance report was submitted in writing.

#### **4.7. Police Department**

- Chief Prue stated that the Police Department has a number of things going on. He stated that crime is down.



- The biggest problem is breaking and entering. They have put a team of two officers together to identify the juveniles. This will assist with distinguishing who should be in school.
- They boarded up a property that was a nuisance property on Birchleaf
- They received a grant for \$25, 000 to assist with tag reading
- We sent two sergeant and corporal to training in the month of March
- We have a couple of cars that need major work.
- Councilman Yeargin requested an update on the speed camera. He wanted to know how it has been working and a report of funding.
- Chief Prue stated that the program is working well. Mr. Ashton stated that in Councilman Yeargin absences the Chair of the Budget and Finance committee reported that the monies are averaging in the amount of \$6,000 per month.

#### **4.8. Public Works Department**

- Mr. Thompson read the written report submitted on the complaints received regarding the working being done on Addison Road. He stated that Pepco is working to improve the electrical power and distribution to lines in Seat Pleasant. The homes and businesses have outgrown the distribution lines. It will be another three (3) weeks before the work is completed.
- They are working closely with the Police Department to board up abandoned house.
- He regrets to report that Maria Henriquez had brain surgery that did not go to well. He is requesting that everyone lift her up in prayer.

#### **5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Mr. John Hollis-6235 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD- He wanted to know far along the curbside are you allowed to park. He stated that he received a ticket and went to court and had to pay a fine of \$72.50. Chief Prue stated that if you park within the allowed footage, and the curve is marked, they can ticket your vehicle. Mr. Hollis stated that he was beyond the yellow marker. Officer Matthews stated that he will walk with him to review the area after the meeting.

Mr. Michael Stephenson,-604 64<sup>th</sup> Place, Seat Pleasant, MD- He stated that he had two questions regarding the crossing guards on G Street and Martin Luther King Avenue. He stated that they need a crossing guard in the area. He feels that we need a camera in the area too. Shell Gas station has four camera's sitting in the same location. He feels that Shell Gas Station can afford their own camera, if they wanted to have a camera on the lot. Councilwoman Gatling stated that the County handles the crossing guards. She suggested that he writes the County regarding the



crossing guard concerns. Councilwoman Gatling informed him that the companies that assist us with the speed cameras are well versed in the law. They establish where the cameras can be placed. Councilman Yeargin suggested that Mr. Stephenson contact Ms. Williams the receptionist or Mrs. Lanham, City Clerk to get the information on where to send his letter to concerning the crossing guards.

Mr. Eugene Kennedy-6110 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD- Mr. Kennedy stated that Mrs. Feggans is in Prince George's Community Hospital in room 413. She isn't doing too well. He requested that the fencing on the tot lot be investigated for safety. He was sorry to hear about Maria being hospitalized. He stated that she was employed with the City when he was Mayor. He remembered when she was able to purchase her first home.

Mr. James Wright 500 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Seat Pleasant, MD-Mr. Wright wanted to know if Councilwoman Gatling knew if the municipality will be getting any funding from the State. Councilwoman Gatling wanted to know the aid that Mr. Wright was referring too. However, she informed him that some municipalities are getting monies for bond bill and the Highway User Fund was restored to all municipalities.

Jacqui Battle 502 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Seat Pleasant, MD- Ms. Battle stated that she wanted to give thanks to God for being here this evening. She wanted to send out kudos to the Fire Department and Police Department. She was in need of assistance and they responded immediately on multiple occasions. She stated that she was disturbed about the March Work Session minutes and none of the Council Committee's had any reports. She stated that only one councilperson had a legitimate reason for a report. Councilwoman Simms stated that she may be meeting with her colleagues on other committees. She stated that the Economic Development committee has ongoing projects that do not require them to meet on a monthly basis. Councilwoman Simms stated that she is waiting on information from the Mr. Ashton and was waiting on information from the Mayor too. Ms. Battle stated that she hope things are not going back to the old ways. She was upset to see the table not being in Chambers this evening and was told the table was broken. Councilwoman Gatling stated that the table was broken for years and was from the Council Conference Room, which was given up for office space. She stated that the council decided to remove the clutter from Council Chambers. They wanted a more formal look in Chambers.

Wilhelmina Evans-617 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seat Pleasant, MD- Ms. Evans stated that she wanted to give honor to God. She stated that she doesn't mind helping anyone. She

hopes that when she state for us to pray for one another that we actually pray. She said that she doesn't like to call all the time although everyone said for her to call. She understands that people are busy and sometimes she's not able to attend the meetings.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**6.1. None**

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1. None**

**8. ANNOUNCEMENT**

8.1. The Sally H. Joseph HIV/AIDS 5K Fun Run/Walk, Saturday, April 23, 2011, City Hall, 9:00am-11:00am

8.2. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department-Baskin Robins 31-cent Scoop Night, Wednesday, April 27, 2011, Baskin Robbins 9183 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 5:00pm-10:00pm

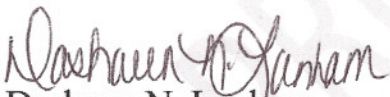
8.3. Step to Excellence Walking Program, Saturday, May 21, 2011, Seat Pleasant City Hall, 11:00a.m. Volunteers Needed for a Committee

8.4. FY2012 Budget Hearing, Monday, April 25, 2011, City Hall-Council Chambers, 6:00p.m.

8.5. Annual Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 7, 2011, Goodwin Park Activities 12:00p.m.-5:00p.m., Parade at 10:00a.m., leaving City Hall

**ADJOURN-** The meeting adjourned at 7:56p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk